

By STUART EARP

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Maidenhead United 2

WYCOMBE Wanderers threw away a two goal lead against local rivals Maidenhead United on Tuesday night and squandered a Premier Midweek Floodlight League point that should never have been in danger.

Wanderers seemed to be coasting when Tony Horseman scored his second goal of the night in the 54th minute, but they hadn't bargained for Maidenhead's recovery act. On Saturday, United had come from 2-1 down to win 3-2 at Gravesend, and they repeated the feat again at Loakes Park, big Mick Chatterton scoring both goals.

Five first team regulars were missing in the Blues line up which included Paul Birdseye and Johnny Hutchinson, both playing their first games of the

season, having re-joined the club.

"Hutch", although obviously unfit after a long lay off, was surprisingly sharp in the first half.

Maidenhead included former Wanderers Gerry Olson and Vince Faulkner in their side, along with several ex-Marlow players from last season. As their Saturday display suggests, they are a strong side, well balanced and could well be challenging for a place in the Rothman's Isthmian League, Division One by the end of the term.

In the first half, however, they struggled to find any cohesion. Wycombe too, were not at their best, although Dave Wright's goalkicking showed vast improvement. Hutchinson and Searle had shots blocked by 'keeper Whitlock while at the other end, Malcolm Kemp's shot

was hooked off the line by Dave Bullock with Wright beaten.

A couple of minutes later, however, Wycombe went ahead with a penalty. Birdseye's free kick to the near post was met by Horseman who stumbled as Cole challenged. Referee Bradbury was right on the spot and had no hesitation in awarding the penalty which Horseman crashed past Whitlock.

After Paul Birdseye was driven a superb shot just wide from almost 30 yards, Wanderers went two up in the 54th minute. Mackenzie received the ball just outside the United area and pinged a beautiful pass through a crowd of defenders to Horseman, who wasted no time in hammering the ball past the helpless Whitlock.

Maidenhead, with nothing to lose by now, suddenly came to life and with Dave Woolley com-

ing on for Watt after 62 minutes they began to surge forward. Their pressure paid off in the 65th minute when burly Chatterton, Slough Town's leading goalscorer last term, slotted home Faulkner's cross from five yards.

The substitution of Holfield for a tiring Hutchinson could not halt Maidenhead's rally and United drew level after 75 minutes. Roger Grant, who had a thoroughly unhappy game, brought down Woolley as the two players chased into the penalty area, for an obvious penalty. Chatterton sent Wright the wrong way with his spot kick.

There were precious few opportunities for a winner from either side in the closing stages, although Rob Williams, coming on for Mackenzie, almost beat Whitlock with a long range effort near the close.

WYCOMBE: D. Wright; P. Birdseye, J. Rundle, D. Bullock, R. Grant; G. Mackenzie (sub. N. Williams 76 mins.); A. Brothers, J. Hutchinson (sub. M. Holfield 65 mins.); D. Evans, K. Searle, A. Horseman.

MAIDENHEAD: T. Whitlock; D. Shepherd, P. Cole, G. Olson, V. Faulkner, J. Kelman, M. Swadling, M. Kemp, M. Chatterton, D. Kemp (sub. P. Wright 62 mins.); M. Watt (sub. D. Woolley 62 mins.).

Referee: P. J. C. Bradbury (Slough). **Half time:** 1-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Horseman 2 (1 pen.), (55, 54); Maidenhead — Chatterton 2 (1 pen.), (65, 72).

Official paying attendance: 539. **Approx. total attendance:** 650.

MAIDENHEAD United staged another fighting comeback at Loakes Park last night to take a point from Wycombe in the Premier Midweek League (writes Rick Jamieson).

On Saturday they battled back from 2-1 down to beat Gravesend 3-2 in the F.A. Cup and last night they picked themselves up off the floor to pull back a two-goal deficit.

Wycombe were minus six regular first team players, and two more were on the substitutes' bench, but it was still a good performance from Maidenhead.

They looked the better side in the first half, playing some neat, flowing football at times, and were unlucky to go behind when Wycombe were awarded a penalty.

It seemed rather harsh when a dramatic tumble from Horseman, tripping over Coles' leg, won a penalty, but the Wycombe striker got up to bang home the spot kick.

Wycombe looked a lot sharper at the start of the second half and when Horseman controlled a cross from McKenzie and then fired home a good second goal the result seemed a formality.

Pulled down

But then Maidenhead manager Micky Hall sent on substitutes Woolley and Wright after 62 minutes and three minutes later Chatterton reduced the arrears.

And after 74 minutes Woolley reacted into the Wycombe penalty area and was pulled down by Grant for Chatterton to step up and score his second goal from the penalty spot.

It was a fair result but Maidenhead will have to tighten up at the back before too long. They were lucky not to be punished for some loose passing at the back and Whitlock made three or four good saves.

For Wycombe Paul Birdseye and John Hutchinson made their first appearances after returning to the club and will now be bidding to regain match fitness and first team places.

Wycombe: Wright, Birdseye, Grant, Rundle, Bullock, Mackenzie, Horseman, Searle, Hutchinson, Horseman, Sub: Holfield and Williams.

Maidenhead: Wright, Shepherd, Cole, Olson, Faulkner, Kelman, Swadling, Kemp (M), Chatterton, Kemp (D), Watt, Sub: Wright and Woolley.



The ball seems wedged here between two Woking players and Larry Pritchard (right) during Wycombe's 1-0 F.A. Cup triumph on Saturday.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS resume their Rothmans Isthmian League, Division One training tomorrow (Saturday) when they visit Kingstonian at Richmond Road. Three points are vital for the Blues if they are to keep up with the current pacesetters Hendon and Dulwich Hamlet.

Hendon's 1-0 midweek victory at Oxford puts them two points clear of Dulwich with 32, but the latter have a game in hand. Wanderers still occupy third spot with 28 points but they have three games and a possible nine points in hand over the leaders.

Tomorrow's opponents, Kingstonian, have one point for a caution and are in mid-table in Division One. Their main trouble this season has been inconsistency. This week's fortunes have been a prime example. On Saturday they excelled themselves by beating Southern League Dartford 3-1 in the Cup but when visiting Sandy Lane on Tuesday they crashed to a surprise 1-0 defeat at the hands of Tooting and Mitcham.

They have drawn 0-0 with both Hendon and Leatherhead and yet lost on their own ground to Clapton 3-2. Former Wycombe man Trevor Waughman tops the goalscoring charts with eight this season in a side that includes four new faces — Pearce, Esheley, Hill and Essimeont. Ian MacLain, another ex-Blue, left for Staines this term.

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